

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

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DRAFTED BY AF/C:REGRIBBIN:LA
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P 282314Z FEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PPDC, GB

SUBJECT: CONDOLENCE MESSAGE

1. FOLLOWING PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE IS PROVIDED AS A
CONTINGENCY MEASURE FOR PROMPT DELIVERY TO PRESIDENT
BONGO AT APPROPRIATE MOMENT FOLLOWING OFFICIAL
ANNOUNCEMENT OF LOSS. SINCE IN THE EVENT THE TERMINOLOGY
MAY NOT ACCORD WITH THE FACTUAL SITUATION, EMBASSY SHOULD
EMBARGO TEXT UNTIL SURE IT IS APPROPRIATE. IF
SITUATION PERTAINING TO LOSS OF LIFE, SURVIVORS OR OTHER
GERMANE ELEMENTS SO INDICATES, EMBASSY SHOULD WITHHOLD
MESSAGE AND PROMPTLY SUGGEST TO DEPARTMENT FOR
WHITE HOUSE APPROVAL ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE BEFITTING
THE CIRCUMSTANCES THEN PERTAINING.

2. QUOTE: I WAS DEEPLY SHOCKED WITH THE TRAGIC LOSS OF
LIFE IN THE HELICOPTER CRASH INVOLVING YOUR BROTHER-IN-
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LAW, YOUR NEPHEWS, AND OTHER GABONESE AND FRENCH
CITIZENS. IN PARTICULAR THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE
UNITED STATES NAVY UNITS WHICH RECENTLY VISITED
LIBREVILLE WERE GREATLY IMPRESSED BY THE EFFECTIVE SUPPORT
OF CHIEF OF STAFF LT. COL. DABANY.
YOU AND THE GABONESE PEOPLE HAVE SUFFERED A GREAT LOSS.
MRS. CARTER JOINS ME IN EXTENDING OUR SYMPATHY AND

CONDOLENCES TO YOU, MRS. BONGO AND ALL THE FAMILIES
INVOLVED. END QUOTE. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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